

EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED CONCERNING LIBYA
BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AT
THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 26, 2011

Thank you, Madam President.

2. I take the floor to state that India has been following, with serious concern, the developments in Libya, which have resulted in loss of numerous lives and injuries to many more. We deplore the use of force, which is totally unacceptable. We earnestly hope that calm and stability are restored at the earliest without any further violence.

3. Madam President, we also have concerns about the safety of Indian nationals and their assets in Libya. We urge the authorities there to ensure their safety and welfare and facilitate departure of those desirous of leaving the country.

4. India is not a member of the International Criminal Court. Of the 192 members of the United Nations, only 114 are members of the ICC. 5 of the 15 members of the Council, including 3 Permanent Members, are not parties to the Rome Statute. Moreover, we would have preferred a calibrated and gradual approach.

5. We, however, note that several members of the Council, including our colleagues from Africa and the Middle East, believe that such a referral would have the effect of immediate cessation of violence and restoration of calm and stability. The letter from the Permanent Representative of Libya of 26 February 2011 addressed to you, Madam President has called for such a referral and strengthened this view. We have, therefore, gone along with the consensus in the Council.

6. In this context, we draw attention to Para 6 of the resolution that concerns nationals from countries not parties to the Rome Statute. Similarly, the resolution also recalls in its preambular paras Article 16 of the Rome Statute under which no investigation or prosecution may be commenced or proceeded with by the International Criminal Court for a period for 12 months after a Security Council request to that effect.

I thank you.

BACK TO SECURITY COUNCIL